**Subject area/course**: History/Social Studies; World History

**Grade level/band**: 9

**Task source**: Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC)

**Get Your Passport Ready: Traveling with Early Explorers**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

People have always wanted to travel and explore new places. Some travel to learn about cultures, some for adventure, some for new discoveries. As you can imagine, early travel had few road maps and no hotels with swimming pools. This task asks you to vicariously join one of four early adventurers. You will work in a team of four, with each person researching one of the following 14th and 15th century explorers:

* Christopher Columbus
* Marco Polo
* Ibn Battuta
* Zheng He

Each person will share details of their chosen explorer’s journey with the group. You will use the information you learn to decide which explorer’s trip you would have personally liked to join.

Through the wonders of time travel, you will have the opportunity to apply to go back in time and join in the trip of your choice! Through the benefits of foresight, you will know which one you would prefer, and why! In your Time Travel Application, you will need to explain your understanding of the purpose of the journey, its importance in world history, and your personal reasons for wanting to go along on it.

Research the information listed in the “Explorer Analysis” section below. You will have 10 minutes to present your findings to your team. Provide a map of the travels of your explorer. As you do your research, use the “Explorer Analysis” section below to record answers to as many of the questions listed as you can.

1. **Final product**:

Research the journey of one 14th or 15th century adventurer and present your findings to your team. Then, complete the "Time Travel Application" to join one of the journeys presented.

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

* Knowledge of the nature, purpose, and results of the major voyages of discovery of one of the explorers listed in the instructions.
* Skill in locating, selecting, and summarizing primary and secondary source documents.
* Skill in analyzing the point of view expressed in a primary or secondary source.
* An ability to draw evidence from multiple sources and use that evidence to support a central idea or claim in brief written passages.

1. **Materials needed:**

* Explorer Analysis document (see next two pages)
* Time Travel Application (see last page)
* Access to a library or computers connected to the Internet

1. **Time requirements:**

You will have one week to do your research and your group will have one class period in which to present its research. You will then have 1-2 days to complete your application to join a travel party.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the Get Your Passport Ready Rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.

Explorer Analysis

Write brief answer to the following questions. When responding to the questions, be sure to cite sources you have used wherever possible.

1. Briefly describe the cultures, empires, and kingdoms encountered on the journey.

2. What age was your chosen explorer at the time of departure, what was the purpose of the journey and how long did it last?

3. What were the reasons for the journey?

4. What modes of transportation were used and what travel difficulties and dangers were confronted?

5. What skills did your chosen explorer need, and how did he interact with people?

6. What conflicts were encountered?

7. In what situations, if any, did your explorer feel "cultural shock" – that is being from a different culture and seeing things that were unusual or uncomfortable?

8. In your research, what myths or untruths if any, did your explorer express?

9. What scientific discoveries, if any, did your chosen explorer make?

10. What unusual stories or anecdotes may make the journey seem more real to your team members?

11. In your opinion as researcher, what was the impact of this explorer on history?

Time Travel Application

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would like to join the expedition of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the year ­\_\_\_\_\_\_ to

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the following reasons:

**This journey was important in world history because**:

**I would like to take part in this exploration because**:

**I believe I can contribute to improving this exploration because**: